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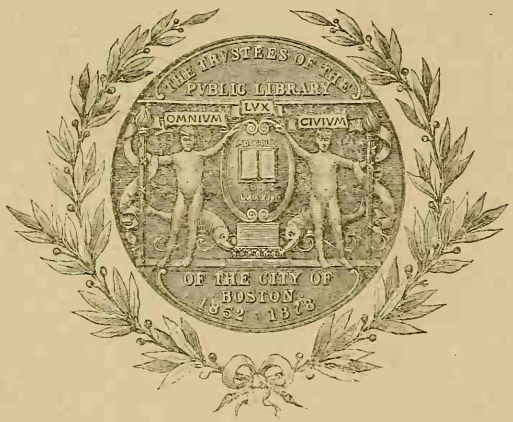

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THE

MOWRY

FAMILY

MONUMENT

WOONSOCKET

R. I.

MOWRY

THE

MOWRY FAMILY

MONUMENT,

NEAR WOONSOCKET, R. I.

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[MOWRY, WILLIAM AUGUSTUS]

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Mar. 28, 1898.

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A UNIQUE FAMILY MONUMENT.

By William A. Mowry, Ph.D., Hyde Park, Mass.

Within the cemetery near Woonsocket, R. I., opposite the Friends' Meeting House, and near the main entrance, has lately been erected a unique monument to one branch of the Mowry family in America, including nine generations. Excellent half-tone cuts showing this monument and the inscriptions upon its four sides from photographs by Merrill, the photographic artist in Woonsocket, are inserted in this pamphlet.

The monument is beautiful in design, of excellent proportions, every way attractive and imposing, and, standing as it does directly by the side of the thoroughfare, near the principal entrance of the cemetery, cannot fail to attract the special attention of all passers by. It is made of white bronze, in color resembling granite; is five feet and a half square at the base and sixteen feet high. It is surmounted by a figure of Hope with one hand upon the anchor, and a face, exquisite in expression, turned upward. This monument was erected solely at the expense of Hon. Arlon Mowry, now of Providence, but a native and former resident of old Smithfield, later North Smithfield.

Mr. Mowry has been a successful business man; is now president of one of the banks in Woonsocket, and has served his town and state in various public offices. He has been a member of the General Assembly and has served as State Senator. He has shown great interest in historical and genealogical matters, and his loyalty to the family whose name he bears has impelled him to the erection of this unique monument.

Upon the panels and plinths of the four sides are placed the inscriptions which include the entire genealogy of one direct line of nine generations of Mowrys in this country, beginning with Roger Mowry, one of the early settlers of Boston, and ending with the children of Arlon, including their husbands and wives.

These inscriptions include, as will be seen by reading them, a great amount of information respecting this line of descendants from the patriarch Roger. They give the names of more than one hundred persons, and the entire inscriptions embrace over one thousand words in telling the story.

The following are the inscriptions upon the four sides of this monument:

[NORTH SIDE.—FRONT.]

ERECTED
A. D. 1896.
By
Hon. Arlon Mowry
To the Memory of
ROGER MOWRY
And
Eight Generations
Of His Descendants
Through His Son
Nathaniel.

MOWRY.

Roger Mowry registered in Boston, Mass., after his arrival from England, May 18, 1631. He lived in Plymouth for several years, and later in Salem from about 1635 to 1649. He then removed to Providence, Rhode Island, where he resided till his death, Jan. 5, 1666.

He married Mary, daughter of John Johnson of Roxbury, Mass. She died Jan. 1679.

CHILDREN.

Roger, died young.
Jonathan, born in 1637.
Bethiah, born in 1638.
Mary, born in 1640.
Elizabeth, born in 1643.
NATHANIEL, born in 1644.
John, born about 1645.
Mehitable, born about 1646.
Joseph, born in 1647.
Benjamin, born in 1649.
Thomas, born in 1652.
Hannah, born in 1656.

1631
1896
ERECTED
A. D. 1896.
BY
ROGER MOWRY
AND
NATHANIEL
MOWRY

[WEST SIDE.]

NATHANIEL MOWRY.
Son of Roger,
born in 1644, married
in 1666 Johannah,
daughter of Edward Inman
of Providence,
(later Smithfield) one of
the first settlers in
Rhode Island.
Nathaniel died in Providence
Mar. 24, 1718.
Johannah survived him.

CHILDREN.

Nathaniel, Sarah,
John, Mary,
HENRY, Johannah,
Joseph, Patience,
Martha, Marcy,
Experience.

HENRY MOWRY, son of Nathaniel, born about 1670, married 1st in 1701 Mary, daughter of Isaac and Mary Bull of Newport. Married 2d in 1726, Hannah Mowry, widow of John Mowry 2d of Smithfield. Her maiden name was Packard. Mary died about 1725.

Henry died in Smithfield, Sept. 23, 1759. Hannah survived him.

CHILDREN.

Mary, born Sept. 28, 1702. Jeremiah, born Apr. 7, 1711.
URIAH, born Aug. 15, 1705. Sarah, born Apr. 5, 1717.
Jonathan, born June 1, 1708. Elisha.
Phebe.

URIAH MOWRY, son of Henry, born Aug. 15, 1705, married 1st about 1724, Urania, daughter of John Paine of Providence. She was born July 4, 1706. Married 2d in 1773, Hannah, widow of William Arnold of Providence. She was daughter of Job Whipple. Urania died Mar. 8, 1772. Uriah died in Smithfield March 6, 1792. Hannah survived him.

CHILDREN.

Martha, born Apr. 1, 1726. Wanton, born Aug. 7, 1739.
Nathan, born June 10, 1729. JONATHAN, born Mar. 10, 1742.
Stephen, born Dec. 13, 1731. Mary, born Oct. 30, 1745.
Philip, born Feb. 17, 1734. Elizabeth, born Oct. 30, 1748.
Gideon, born July 18, 1736.
And others, Jonathan being the seventh son.

[SOUTH SIDE.]

JONATHAN MOWRY,
son of Uriah,
born Mar. 10, 1742,
married in 1769, Deborah,
daughter of
Jabez and Mary Wing.
Jonathan died in Smithfield,
Mar. 25, 1814.
Deborah died July 13, 1825.

He was a noted doctor. He and his wife were both members of the Society of Friends and were Preachers of note in that religious body.

CHILDREN.

Rebecca, born Feb. 9, 1770.
CALEB, born Mar. 5, 1771.
Anna, born Feb. 4, 1773.
Robert, born Dec. 2, 1774.
Martha, born June 7, 1777.
Abigail, born Mar. 30, 1780.
Dorcas, born May 6, 1782.
Urania, born June 21, 1785.
Peleg, born Feb. 2, 1788.
Deborah, born Oct. 6, 1789.

CALEB MOWRY, son of Jonathan, born March 5, 1771, married in 1795, Nancy, daughter of David Mowry. Nancy, born Oct. 29, 1775. Caleb died in Smithfield, Mar. 31, 1814. Nancy married 2d in 1818 Eliakim Mowry. Eliakim died in Smithfield in 1845. Nancy died Nov. 13, 1860.

CHILDREN.

Jesse, born June 4, 1796. Died young.
Duty, born Feb. 14, 1798. His monument in this cemetery.
Urania, born May 22, 1800, married in 1824.
Charles Bowen, born Sept. 16, 1800.
BARNEY, born May 3, 1804.

BARNEY MOWRY, son of Caleb, born May 3, 1804, married 1st in 1828, Phila, daughter of Amasa and Anna Mowry, of Smithfield, who were married Apr. 24, 1800. Phila was born in 1806. Anna was the daughter of Francis Hamilton. Married 2d in 1846, Urania, daughter of Paoli and Martha Steere of Smithfield. She was born July 29, 1821. Phila died Nov. 25, 1839. Urania died July 21, 1865. Barney died in North Smithfield, Nov. 12, 1891.

CHILDREN OF BARNEY AND PHILA.

Orrin P., born May 24, 1829, died in North Smithfield, Aug. 1, 1895.
Albert, born Mar. 9, 1831, died in North Smithfield, Apr. 3, 1893.
ARLON, born Feb. 23, 1833. Burial in Middletown, R. I.
Stafford, born Apr. 14, 1835, died in Hampton, Va., Mar. 27, 1889.
He was Quarter-Master in the 3d R. I. Cavalry, in the Civil War.
Atwell, born Nov. 18, 1836, died in Butte, Montana, Sept. 1, 1882.
Child of Barney and Urania. Erwin A., born Dec. 8, 1847.

[EAST SIDE.]

ARLON MOWRY,
who
erected this monument,
The third son of Barney,
born Feb. 23, 1833,
married in 1857 Harriet,
daughter of Isaac and Susan
(Borden) Wightman.

This name is spelled both Wightman and Whitman by members of the same family.

Isaac was born in Newport, R. I., June 22, 1803, and died in North Smithfield, Feb. 15, 1882.

Susan was born in Fall River, Mass., Sept. 22, 1800, and died May 14, 1884.

CHILDREN OF
Isaac and Susan Wightman.

Ruth R., born Sept. 16, 1832.

Harriet, born Jan. 1, 1837, died Jan. 2, 1865.

CHILDREN OF ARLON AND HARRIET MOWRY.

These are of the ninth generation in this country.

Emma L., born Apr. 27, 1868, married in 1886, Stephen E. Batcheller. He was born May 29, 1858, son of Alexander and Kezia (Wallin) Batcheller. Alexander was a physician in practice in Burrillville, R. I., and later in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Eugene C., born Aug. 12, 1860. Married in 1889 Daisy B. Underwood. She was born Jan. 12, 1867, daughter of William H. and Ellen (Ansell) Underwood of Cambridge, Mass. Eugene is a physician in practice in the city of New York.

Wilfred L., born Nov. 15, 1862, died Nov. 17, 1866.

Harriet W., born Sept. 15, 1864, married in 1891, Albert E. Crowell. He was born Mar. 24, 1863, son of Nathaniel and Ellen M. (Macomber) Crowell of Providence, R. I.

For further information concerning the descendants of Roger Mowry, see a volume entitled "The Descendants of Nathaniel Mowry of Rhode Island," by William A. Mowry, A.M., Ph.D., copies of which are in the Providence Public Library, the Harris Institute Library, and the Library of the Society of Friends in Woonsocket.

It is doubtful if another monument similar to this in design and scope can be found in the whole country. It places the genealogy of this one family for nearly three centuries in the most compact form and in a public place, where it will be read not only by the members of this family, but by thousands who otherwise would be entirely ignorant of the early history of the family in America.

The earliest mention of Roger Mowry in this country is found in the Boston records, as follows:—

"Eighteen May, 1631, names of such as desire to be made ffreemen, [among them] Roger Mawry, Roger Williams." Neither of these two Rogers remained in Boston to accept the duties and privileges of "ffreemen" in that colony. But, soon after, we find them both citizens of Plymouth, later both became citizens of Salem, and finally they lived side by side in Providence. Roger Mowry was in Salem from 1636 to 1649. He and his wife Mary were members of the church at Salem. The Suffolk records (vol. iii., p. 374) show that his wife was "the eldest daughter of John Johnson, late of Roxbury." In 1637 "he had fifty acres laid out" to him two miles or more from the settlement at Salem toward what was afterwards known as Salem Village. He built his house on the lot which is now the corner of Essex and Flint Streets, adjoining the Bowditch School. Indeed this house lot ran from what is now Essex Street northward to the river and included the land upon which now stand the Bowditch School and the Catholic Church.

The records of the church in Salem show that his oldest son, Jonathan, was baptized April 2, 1637, and other children as follows: Bethia, 1638, June 17; Mary, 1640, June 16; Elizabeth, 1643, January 20; Benjamin, 1649, May 20; between Elizabeth and Benjamin were four other children as given on the north side of the monument and no record is found of their baptism. In August, 1658, in open Town Meeting, at Providence, Roger Mowry testified that his three youngest children, Benjamin, Thomas and Hannah, were born in Providence. It is supposed that the Salem pastor, when on a visit in 1649 to the members of his church then residing in Providence, found the infant Benjamin, baptized him there and entered the record upon the Salem Church book on his return home. The original records of that period of the Salem Church have been lost, although some of them were copied and kept in a later book which has been preserved. The above facts are gleaned from that book.

When the book, "The Descendants of Nathaniel Mowry of Rhode Island," referred to above, was published, in 1878, it was not known that Nathaniel and John, as well as Joseph of Portsmouth and of Conanicut, were sons of Roger. The facts were discovered by Mr. John O. Austin of Providence, and the evidence is clearly given by him in his "Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island," from probate records.

By this it appears that John Mowry died July 7, 1690, and his brother Nathaniel was appointed administrator upon his estate, Oct. 3, 1690. Soon after that date he rendered a partial account, and among his payments was 12 shillings "paid to my brother Joseph Mowry of Conanicut." This shows that Joseph was brother to Nathaniel and John. But it was not yet known who this Joseph was.

Joseph died May 27, 1716. His wife Mary was executrix, under his will, which was proved and allowed May 31, 1716. By this will Joseph gave a small legacy to his "Brother Benjamin" and another legacy to his nephew "Joseph Mowry, son of Benjamin." It was previously clear that Benjamin was the son of Roger, both from the church records of Salem and Roger's deposition in town meeting in Providence as to the birth of his children. Now if Joseph was brother to Benjamin he was son of Roger. Then if Nathaniel was brother to Joseph they were all sons of Roger. This evidence is very simple and very clear. The records of the Society of Friends, in commenting upon the death of Mary Mowry, widow of Joseph, state that "she was a valuable minister and celebrated doctress, and in great repute in the Society and with people generally."

Joseph was evidently a man of superior intelligence, possessed of considerable wealth, and much respected by the people of the colony. He was constable, and served the town of Portsmouth as deputy to the General Assembly in the years 1686, 1698, 1699, 1701-3-5-8 and '11. He was one of forty-eight persons to whom was granted 5000 acres of land to be called East Greenwich. This was in 1677, and two years later he had 50 acres laid out. Thus we have traced several of the early branches of the family.

Roger Mowry was admitted freeman in Providence in 1655. He built a house about 1653, a portion of which is now standing, newer parts having been built to it from time to time during these intervening centuries. This house is on Abbott Street, near North Main Street, not far from the North burial ground. It has been known for many years as the oldest house in the city, and has been called the Olney House.

Professor Isham of Brown University has lately proven by real estate records that this house was built by Roger Mowry as mentioned above. For a series of years he kept a "tavern" in the town of Providence. About the same time Richard Pray was licensed to keep a public house also. It would seem that the liberty-loving people of the town were accustomed to frequent the house kept by Mowry.

A story is told of a Massachusetts constable who had arrested a man at Pawtuxet and was carrying him to Massachusetts. He stopped with his prisoner over night at Pray's Tavern. During the evening some citizens of the town gathered at Mowry's Tavern, discussed the matter, decided that a Massachusetts constable had no right to arrest a man in their colony and carry him to the Bay Colony. They, therefore, suddenly summoned

a meeting of the town council at Mowry's Tavern. The members of the council soon gathered and sent a messenger to the Massachusetts officer demanding by what authority he held his prisoner. Some controversy ensued between the parties, but the result was that the officer did not carry his prisoner to Boston but he was released.

Roger's son Thomas, who was born in Providence in 1652, settled in Roxbury, where in 1673 he married Susanna Newell. This Thomas had a daughter Abigail born in 1681. In Roxbury one of the leading families in that early time was the Harris family. Robert Harris was one of the first settlers there and his son Timothy was born in 1650, and did not marry until he was nearly forty-seven years old. When he was about thirty years of age, one day he rapped at the door of neighbor Mowry (Thomas), and as no one answered the summons he pulled the latch string and walked in. Mrs. Mowry being out at the time had left her babe Abigail asleep in the cradle. The noise of Timothy's entering awakened the child, who immediately began to cry. While Timothy was trying to pacify the little one, Mrs. Mowry came in and, amused at the old bachelor's attention to her babe, lifted up her hands and exclaimed: "Good heart, old bachelor, I have some hopes of you yet." Looking up at her, Timothy immediately replied: "And well you may, good wife, for I propose to wait for this damsel until she be grown and ask her for my wife."

He kept his promise and on the second of April, 1697, Timothy Harris, then in his forty-seventh year, was married to Abigail Mowry, who was at that time sixteen years and three days old. They had four children and Timothy lived to be eighty years of age and his wife died in her eighty-seventh year.

Abigail had a brother John who inherited the farm from his father and was a man of property and high standing in the community. He was one of seventeen male members who organized the second church in Roxbury, now West Roxbury. This was in 1712. He presented the church with a silver christening basin, and when the third church was established, now the Unitarian Church at Jamaica Plain, he presented it with a clock which is still used,—a round, gilded dial clock, at the present time in the chapel of that church.

The descendants of Roger Mowry are scattered in large numbers all over the country. His two sons Nathaniel and John were among the early settlers of northern Rhode Island and at one time they were half owners with three other partners, Edward Inman, Thomas Wallin and John Steer, of 3500 acres of land, running from the Blackstone river near Pawtucket westward to the Connecticut line and including the vicinity of what is now the city of Woonsocket. To commemorate the descendants of Nathaniel, in only one direct line, that of Hon. Arlon Mowry, this monument is erected.

The original spelling of the name is still a subject of conjecture. In

ERLON HOWARD

the early colonial times it was variously spelled, but much of this variety was doubtless due to the carelessness of the times in regard to spelling and of the clerks who frequently wrote the name as it sounded when pronounced in their hearing. The signature of Nathaniel in 1711 was spelled Nathaniel Mowrey, and in Salem the prevailing spelling of Roger's name was Mowry. The spelling however gradually settled into two forms, so that today, with almost entire uniformity the descendants of Jonathan and Thomas spell the name Morey. I have been unable to trace any descendants of Benjamin. At one time it was thought that Roger came from Wales, and if so the name may have been Mawry, which would mean the "hill men," or the highlanders, from Mawr, a hill.

From what part of the old country Roger Mowry came is still uncertain, as well as the tradition that he was a relation of Roger Williams. It is stated that there are families in England today spelling their name Morey, and also others who spell it Mowry. A few years ago a stationer lived in Bristol, England, who spelled his name Morey.

The history of the family in America is an interesting one, and every way honorable to those who bear the name.

Most of the facts in this brief article have never before been brought together, but are culled from reliable sources after much research.

Twenty years ago a volume of three hundred and forty pages, entitled "The Descendants of Nathaniel Mowry of Rhode Island," and another volume of two hundred and forty pages, entitled "Richard Mowry of Uxbridge, Mass., his Ancestors and his Descendants," were published, having been prepared by the writer of this article. No genealogy of any other branch of the family has yet appeared, but in some directions wide research has already been made and much labor bestowed upon the subject, so that it is hoped the records of other branches of this great family will before long be rescued from oblivion and placed in proper form before the public.

When the Nathaniel Mowry book was published, twenty years ago, as has already been stated, it was not known that Nathaniel and John Mowry were the sons of Roger. As John's name first appears with the name of Edward Inman, and Nathaniel's name appears later, it was naturally supposed that John was the older brother.

In Savage's "Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England," it is stated that a John Mowry came over in the ship *Blessing* in 1635. The supposition, therefore, would be natural that this John of Rhode Island was the John who came over in the *Blessing*. Subsequent investigations, however, proved that this supposition was entirely erroneous and that Nathaniel was the older of the two.

Roger Mowry died in 1666. At that time his son Nathaniel was twenty-two and John twenty-one years of age. Young as they were, we find them starting off into the wilderness of northern Rhode Island, bargaining with

William Minnion,—a petty Nipmuck chief, subject to the Narragansetts, —for a large tract of land. Subsequently this land was divided into shares among the several proprietors owning it. The land was parcelled off into tracts of three hundred acres including upland and swamps, and with each of these tracts were set apart six acres of meadow-land. The five proprietors than drew lots for the division of the land. The land being thus divided each proprietor proceeded to locate upon his own premises as a homestead. John Mowry's home from that time till his death was on Sayles's Hill—as it has been known in later days, but in those earlier days for one hundred years it was called Mowry's Hill. John and his wife both died of small-pox in 1690. As we have already seen, his brother Nathaniel administered upon his estate.

It was not absolutely certain where the homestead of Nathaniel was, but it is supposed to have been on what is now known as Iron Mine Hill. Nathaniel died in 1718. By his will he appointed his son Joseph executor. He gave to his son Nathaniel one hundred acres at Wansecutt Hill; to his son John forty acres; to his son Henry fifty acres, "to be taken off on the north side of my homestead upon Wesquotomsit Hill"; to his son Joseph the "remainder part of my homestead including dwelling house, orchard and one hundred and ten acres of land"; this bequest being larger than others, he says, because he had received money from Joseph.

Joseph, the executor of his father's estate, was called Captain Joseph and he rendered his account to the Town Council In 1791. This Captain Joseph was one of the leading men of the colony during his lifetime. His home was near the summit of a prominent hill about a mile westward from the village of Stillwater, a large, square, two story house which is still standing and in excellent condition. It was built by him in the year 1708. The tradition in the family is that at the time this house was built it was the largest house in the colony. Here Captain Joseph died in 1746. A full account of this house is given in the Nathaniel Mowry book, beginning on page 40.

His brother Henry was doubtless older than Joseph and was probably born about the year 1672. Henry's home was on the northerly side of Sayles's Hill, at or near the place lately known as the Tyler Mowry place. Very little more is known of Henry than is given in the Mowry book beginning on page 32. He was evidently a man of prominence and of great activity. He held the important office of constable at a time when that office required considerable activity.

It will be noticed that the dates of the birth of the children of Nathaniel are not given. While the family lived within the boundaries of the town of Providence, yet they were about twelve miles from the principal settlement. Being so far away from the seat of government, the records of the family do not seem to have been kept. After that generation, however, the records were very carefully kept and are quite full. Henry was mar-

Hon. ARLON MOWRY.

ried in 1701 to Mary, the daughter of Isaac and Mary Bull, of Newport. This family was one of the prominent families of that settlement. His wife died in 1725, having borne him seven children. He was afterwards married to Hannah, the widow of John Mowry 2d. Henry lived to a great age, being at the time of his death between eighty-five and ninety years old. His oldest son was Uriah, who married about 1724, Urania, the daughter of John Paine of Providence. She bore him at least ten children, and died in her sixty-sixth year. Uriah married again when he was sixty-eight years of age. His second wife was Hannah, the widow of William Arnold, of Providence. She was the daughter of Job Whipple, of Providence. Uriah also lived to a ripe old age, being in his eighty-seventh year when he died.

Uriah's seventh son was Jonathan Mowry, who was for many years a well known doctor. He married Deborah the daughter of Jabez Wing. It is a notable circumstance that in addition to the fact that Jonathan was a doctor, he and his wife were both preachers among the Friends or Quakers. He was seventy-two at the time of his death, and although we do not know the date of his wife's birth, we do know that she lived fifty-six years after their marriage. Her death occurred eleven years after that of her husband.

It cannot escape the notice of all, that generation after generation these were large families. Roger, the first ancestor in this country, had twelve children. His son Nathaniel had eleven; Nathaniel's son Henry seven; Henry's son Uriah ten at least; Uriah's son Jonathan had ten children; Jonathan's son Caleb had five; Caleb's son Barney six, and Barney's son Arlon four,—eight generations and sixty-three persons.

Let me give another series of facts to show the strength and vitality of this race. Of the twelve children of Roger, the first generation in this country, all but one, the oldest, lived to maturity. In the next generation, all of the eleven children of Nathaniel lived to maturity and all were married. Following the line which leads to the writer, Captain Joseph had five children, all of whom lived to maturity. Then his son Captain Daniel had six children, only one of whom died in childhood.

The next generation was Lawyer Joseph, who had eight children, and all of them lived to be married. The generation following was Preacher Richard, who had six children, all of whom were married. Gideon was the son of Richard and he had nine children, all of whom were married. Then came his son Jonathan, who had three children, all of whom lived to mature years, two being married and one unmarried. Of the two who were married the writer has three children, all living, and his sister is the mother of ten children, all married and all but one living at the present time; the oldest being fifty-five and the youngest more than thirty-three years of age. Here, therefore, is the record of one branch of the family in one straight line from the writer of this and his children,

back to the year 1631, a period of two hundred and sixty-seven years, with the record of the death of only two children prior to maturity and including an aggregate of seventy-three persons. Seventy-one of these lived to maturity.

The race as a whole have manifested the same stalwart physical strength, and have quite uniformly shown commendable industry and enterprise, with a large degree of intellectual and moral worth. The family may be called a fair specimen of New England yeomanry.

Of the descendants of Nathaniel and John, very many are still inhabtants of northern Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. But their descendants are also found to-day in the British Provinces, all of the New England States, New York and Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, California and doubtless other states.

WILLIAM A. MOWRY.

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